

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. JIM JORDAN**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, August 1, 2012*

Mr. JORDAN. Mr. Speaker, my scheduled flight into Washington yesterday afternoon was cancelled for mechanical reasons. As a result, I was absent from the House floor during last night's three rollcall votes.

Had I been present, I would have voted against S. 679 and in favor of H.R. 828 and H.R. 3803.

A TRIBUTE TO THE CAMELLIA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA AND RECOGNITION OF THEIR 50TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. DANIEL E. LUNGREN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, August 1, 2012*

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 50th anniversary of the Camellia Symphony Orchestra of Sacramento, California.

The Camellia Symphony Orchestra is one of Sacramento's prized assets and has deep roots in the region.

Today's Orchestra traces its beginnings back to a small group of local musicians who began informally gathering together and playing music, simply for the fun of it. This group began performing at Encina High School, originally naming themselves the "Pot Luck Symphony."

On September 1, 1962, the group formally organized eventually adopting the name the North Area Community Symphony. Ever since that September evening, the Orchestra has continued to grow, educate and entertain people in the Sacramento area.

By 1970 the Orchestra changed its name to the Camellia Symphony and became a regular participant of Camellia Day events held annually by the City of Sacramento. As the Orchestra has grown, it continues to earn national praise while also showcasing the talent of Sacramentans across the country. In 1979 the Camellia Symphony won its first of many future ASCAP awards, and in 1986 won the prestigious "INDIE" award for best classical release.

As the years have progressed, the Camellia Symphony Orchestra has developed and produced innovative, historical and exciting performances, earning a reputation as one of the finest orchestras in the region. While earning this reputation of excellence, the Orchestra has continued to give back to the Sacramento community, providing opportunities for local musicians to display their musical ability. The Orchestra's commitment to community is seen through its ongoing collaboration with a variety of Sacramento events and organizations, such as Camerata California, the Strauss Festival, St. John's Lutheran Church and many others in the region.

On behalf of all those in the Sacramento area who appreciate what the Camellia Symphony Orchestra means to our community, I would like to congratulate them on their 50th anniversary and wish them many more years of success and prosperity.

INTRODUCTION OF COMMISSION ON AMERICANS LIVING ABROAD ACT

**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, August 1, 2012*

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, U.S. citizens who live and work abroad serve as American's informal ambassadors, helping to strengthen the United States economy and promoting American influence around the globe. For years I have worked to ensure overseas Americans are able to exercise their right to vote and have access to banking services. Five years ago I formed the Congressional Americans Abroad Caucus to focus and bring awareness to the concerns of the 4–6 million U.S. citizens residing abroad. Because they're scattered across the world, it can be hard for Americans living abroad to get the attention of Congress. U.S. citizens remain Americans wherever they are in the world and should not be ignored.

Americans living and working outside the U.S. continue to voice concerns regarding the impact of federal policies on voting, access to financial institutions, immigration, and taxation. Given that these and other federal policies affecting Americans abroad cover an array of agencies, we should study the full impact of these policies on the overseas community. That is why today I am introducing the Commission on Americans Living Abroad Act, creating an Executive Commission expressly charged with examining the concerns of U.S. citizens living and working abroad. This new legislation creates a 15 member panel to study the impact of U.S. laws and Executive actions on the overseas Americans community. The study would then be used to make recommendations for actions Congress and the Executive Branch could take to improve collaboration and communication of policies impacting this community. Through this study we can better ensure awareness, coordination, and integration of the activities of the federal government relating to Americans abroad. Thanks to original cosponsors Reps. MICHAEL HONDA and CHARLES RANGEL for their support of the bill and their advocacy on behalf of overseas Americans.

It is time we take a systemic look at all the issues affecting our citizens living abroad. Through this bipartisan Commission we can establish the state of policies and rules affecting Americans abroad so we can better serve their needs as they live and work in our global economy. I urge my colleagues to support the bill.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. AUSTIN SCOTT**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, August 1, 2012*

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 537, I was unavoidably absent due to my flight being canceled. Had I been present, I would have voted "No."

Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 538, I was unavoidably absent due to my flight being canceled. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 539, I was unavoidably absent due to my flight being canceled. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

## HONORING JOHN BOGERT

**HON. JANICE HAHN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, August 1, 2012*

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker. I rise today to honor the memory of John Bogert, who passed away on July 29, 2012 at the age of 63 following a lengthy battle with cancer.

John Bogert was a columnist for the Daily Breeze, a South Bay local staple, for 28 years. In that time, he wrote some 6,500 columns. He worked hard, writing five or six columns weekly, and his efforts did not go unrecognized. By the end of his life he was known as the "Voice of the South Bay."

He wrote about anything and everything, but some of my favorite columns were those he wrote about his family. These columns were honest—sometimes brutally so—and gave readers insight into a life that often seemed very familiar. He had an uncanny ability to draw readers into his experiences and after reading his columns, his followers felt that they knew him. His book signings were characterized by long lines and his appearance at local events drew crowds of people waiting to shake his hand. He even wrote one of his columns on me as he attempted to capture a "Day in the Life of Janice Hahn"—it was one of my favorite writings on my life.

John was born on October 7, 1948 in Utica, New York and spent much of his childhood in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. He attended the University of Florida where he started his own newspaper and starred on the track team. After some time abroad, he moved to Southern California where he was hired by the Daily Breeze in 1979. He did not originally plan on staying long, but he became one of the Breeze's longest tenured journalists until his departure in June of this year.

He once said in an interview that journalism gave him the opportunity to "meet some pretty great people." And indeed he met with so many interesting figures, from presidents to nuns to an encounter that let him drop the line, "Stalin's interpreter once told me . . ."

John Bogert leaves behind three children: Caitlin, 29, Rachel, 25 and Ian, 18. His eldest daughter is expecting his first grandchild in September. The granddaughter will be named Charlotte, a name picked by John himself. I consider myself incredibly lucky to have known John, and to have considered him a close friend. His family, friends, colleagues and so many readers will miss him dearly. I know that I will.

RECOGNIZING RADIOLOGISTS AND THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF RADIOLOGY

**HON. PETE SESSIONS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, August 1, 2012*

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the International Day of Radiology, and